TAFT TALK

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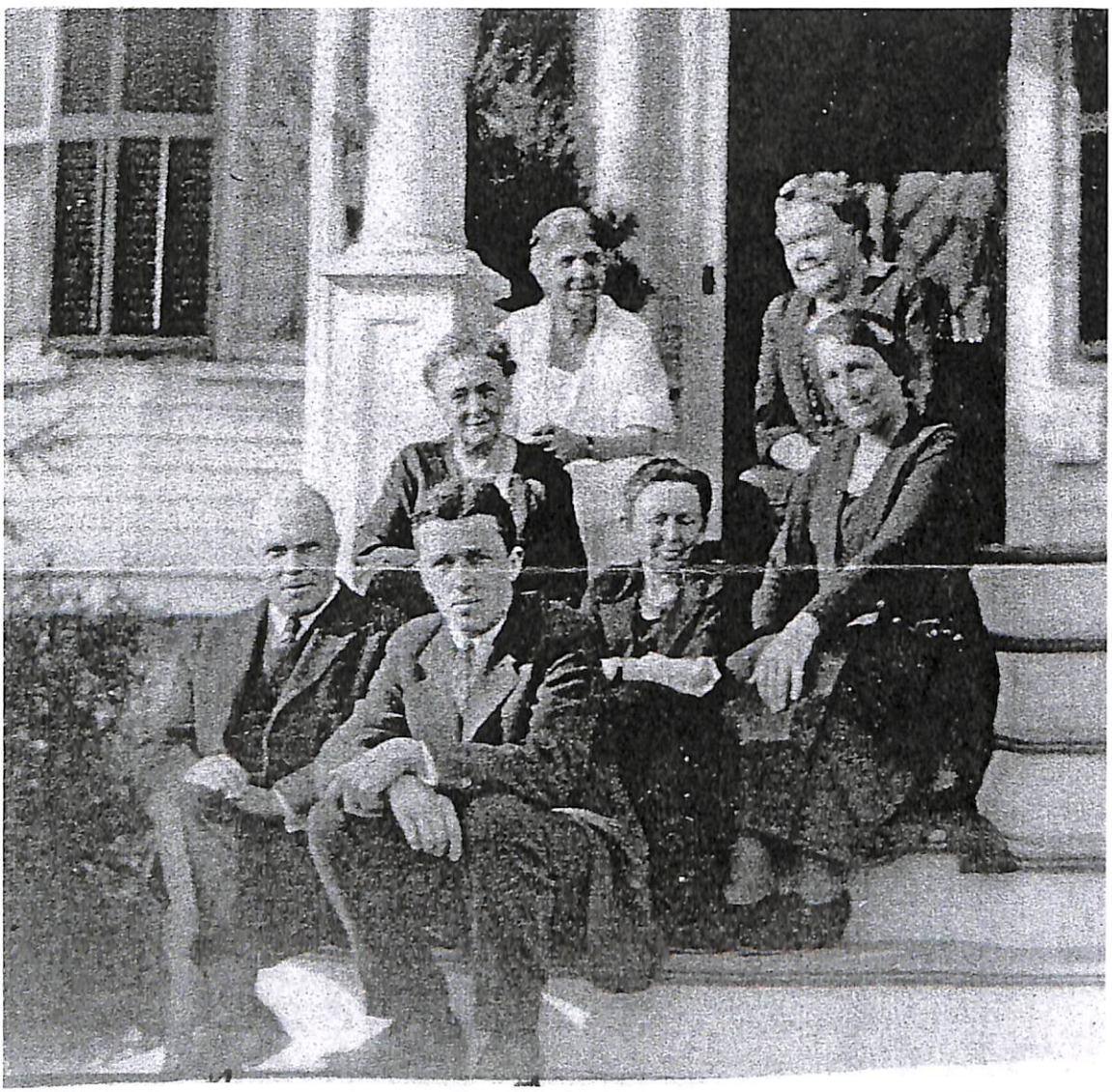

In Honor of a Step-Father

Bonnie Snow has been communicating with us about her step-father, Robert Taft Chandler and has sent us some wonderful photos. Although he was not her biological father, Robert Chandler had a large impact on Bonnie's life and she honors his memory and his support of her by being a member of the Taft Family Association. Bonnie was about 12 years old when her father died. Her mother had had a difficult time with her first husband, and was divorced when she met Robert Taft Chandler.

A family portrait on the steps of the J. A. Sparrow home in Middleboro, MA includes Robert Taft Chandler, front and center, with his father Frederick Gray Chandler on the far left, his mother, Mary Elizabeth (Taft) Chandler behind him, and probably his aunts.

For information on Robert Taft Chandler and his ancestry see pp 2 & 6.

Thoughts from TTT headquarters

Hate to see you leave us, H. Sidney Case, but we do welcome your grandson Eric Case of Tallahassee, FL. It's always wonderful to find younger generations who are enthused with the mysteries and discoveries in searching for their ancestors. In this case Eric is well on the way. His line is well-known by his grandfather: Eric (Steve Case, Sid Case, Lorena Taft Case, Loren Elmer (Clark Corbin, Adolphus, Timothy, Timothy, Jacob, Israel, Robert, Robert) Taft. Welcome!

Bonnie Snow updates us by telling us that she "joined the Taft Association because my step-father, Robert Taft Chandler, was the son of a Taft mother and father, Fredrick Chandler. There are no family members surviving. Offsprings of his aunts may be alive, but I have no knowledge of them. So I keep hoping someday the newsletter will bring some information." Well, cousins, are you one of those people who can share with Bonnie? See p 1, 2, 6 for the information we have on Robert Taft Chandler.

Pam Dunning wrote and expressed interest in the Robert and Sarah Taft memorial – we hope she was able to visit this year. She also added her two brothers to our list, all three are living in Fulton, NY – welcome to you as well.

Linda Newberry is discovering that old software is not helping her keep up to date with all the data she has amassed over the years – and it can be downright ornery as well. It's really hard to keep ahead of the game with computers, printers and software. And it is especially difficult when health issues make life even more arduous – you certainly don't need problems with computers to add to that. Know that we are all thinking of you, Linda and Renee.

Robert Taft "Bobby" Chandler

Robert Taft Chandler

Robert Taft Chandler was born 9 Apr 1900 in Worcester, MA, son of Frederick Gray and Mary Elizabeth (Taft) Chandler, and died 11 Mar 1966 in Cohasset, MA. He was buried in Orleans Cemetery, Orleans, MA (DCtf 1966 3.18.10). Bobby Chandler graduated from Phillips Academy, Andover, MA and Lowell Technological Institute in 1923 as a member of Delta Kappa Phi. He enlisted on 1 Nov 1918 at Woodsville, NH in WWI and was discharged 12 Dec 1918 since the war ended. Because of his enlistment he received a $100 gratuity and an honorable discharge from the Students Army Training Corps, US Army.

Robert Taft Chandler married Florence Angeline (Knowles) MacGregor on 18 Jun 1952 at Chatham Methodist Parsonage, Chatham, MA, Stephen H. Smith, minister, with witnesses: Arthur S. Francis and Bonnie MacGregor (our Bonnie M. Snow) (MCtf). Florence Angeline Knowles was born 7 Oct 1918 in Eastham, MA, daughter of Henry Ellsworth and Angeline C. (Greenough) Knowles, and died 2 Sep 1992 in Eastham, MA. She married (1) William Duff MacGregor about 1936 and was divorced before 1949. William MacGregor was born 3 Jan 1890 in Dundee, Angus, SCO and died in 1949 in Orleans, MA.

Bonnie M. Snow, our correspondent and TFA member was the only child of Florence Angeline Knowles and William Duff MacGregor and the step-daughter of Robert Taft Chandler. She mentioned a walking cane owned by Stephen Taft (either her gt-gt or gt-gt-gt grandfather), as well as a large butler's tray and a beautiful unidentified painting – all of Taft origin.

See p 6 for the ancestry of Robert Taft Chandler

In Memoriam

Robert Ray "Bobby" and Audrey (Pierce) Taft

Robert Ray Taft was born in 1928 in Greenville, NC, son of John Marvin and Helen (Tucker) Taft, and died 16 Jun 2018 in Raleigh, NC. His wife Audrey Pierce was born about 1939 also in Greenville, NC, daughter of Raymond and Bernice Pierce, and died 15 Jan 2017 in Fuquay-Varina, NC. They were both buried in Greenwood Cemetery, Greenville, NC.

Robert grew up in Greenville, NC. He attended Jarvis Memorial Methodist Church and later Landmark Baptist Church. During the 1950s and 1960s he worked in the Greenville Tobacco Market where he met his future wife. Later he joined his brother Zack Taft in the Asphalt Paving Business in both Greenville, NC and the Tidewater area of northern VA.

His favorite interests included vintage cars, old movies and local family history. He loved sharing local history with others.

In recent years he had moved to Spring Arbor in Apex / Raleigh to be closer to family. During his time there he enjoyed playing bingo and dominos, singing hymns on Sundays and dinners with his family.

Audrey Pierce was raised by her Aunt and Uncle (Viola and Claud Boyd) in the area of Chicod near Greenville, NC. She attended Salem United Church where she taught Sunday school and sang in the choir. Later she joined her husband as a member of the Landmark Baptist Church.

Audrey worked for nearly 20 years in an administrative capacity at Pepsi Cola in Greenville, retiring in 2000. Audrey loved to cook, make quilts for friends and family, and work on her roses in the yard.

Robert Ray and Audrey (Pierce) Taft are survived by two sons: Robert "Ray" Taft II and his wife, Barbara of Colonial Heights, VA and Jeff Taft, and his wife Rosanne of Apex, NC and three grandchildren Zachary Taft, Allison Taft and Benjamin Taft.

He was predeceased by his wife Audrey, his parents John Marvin and Helen Tucker Taft, two brothers John H. Taft and Zack V. Taft, and a grandson Robert Brodie Taft.

She was predeceased by her parents, Raymond and Bernice Pierce, one brother William Pierce, and two sisters Mary Pittman and Margaret Causby. She was survived by her brother Earl Pierce of Aurora, CO and four sisters Barbara Watts-Fafara of Warsaw, POL, Eleanor Clark of Grover Beach, CA, Mae Nichols of Sanford, FL and Shirley Arens of Grovetown, GA.

Robert Ray "Ray" Taft was the son of John Marvin (Allen Holsten, Arnold, Thaddeus, Aaron, Joseph, Robert) Taft.

Sources: FAG 190707993, 190708091,www.wilkersonfuneralhome.com, The Daily Reflector

Is this your ancestress? If so, would you like her photograph?

Ervin R "Dick" Taft of Tuscarora, NY responded to our article on the Spring and Taft connection in TTT 73 p. 2. He stated that he has a framed picture of Hannah Spring Taft that was given to him by Doug Taft from AZ. Doug told him that some lady sent it to him after she bought a box at a yard sale or auction and the photo was in the box with a label on the back:

"Chester Cummings,
Manufacturer Portrait, Photograph, and Picture Frames
No. 1721-2 Main St. and No. 2 Walnut St., opposite Mechanics Hall,
Worcester, MA, Old frames repaired,
Office with L. Srisheim, Optician."

Dick would be happy to send the photo along to a member of Hannah (Spring) Taft's family since his lineage is through William Frederick (Benedict, Benedict, Mijamin, Nathan, Mijamin, Benjamin, Robert) Taft.

Meet Hannah (Spring Taft)

Hannah (Spring) Taft was born 18 May 1797 in Northbridge, MA (VR 1.78), daughter of Lt. Adolphus and Lydia (Taft) Spring, and died 24 Oct 1877 in Uxbridge, MA (MAVR 294.375). She was buried in Prospect Hill Cemetery, Uxbridge, MA (FAG 42615846). She married Bezaleel Taft Jr. 22 Dec 1817 in Northbridge, MA as his second wife (VR 156). Bezaleel Taft was born 8 Sep 1780 in Uxbridge, MA (VR 1.150), son of Bezaleel and Sarah (Richardson) Taft, and died 16 Jul 1846 in Uxbridge, MA (VR 1.404). Bezaleel and Hannah (Spring) Taft had the following children: Margaret Stoddard, Lewis Spring, George Spring, Henry Gordon, and George Spring Taft. Bezaleel Taft married (1) Margaret Stoddard Spring 27 Aug 1807 in Newburyport, Essex, MA (VR 2.464). Bezaleel and Margaret Stoddard (Spring) Taft had the following children: Augustus Richardson, Louisa Margaret, and Margaret Stoddard Taft.

Bezaleel Taft, husband of Hannah Spring, was a graduate of Harvard University in 1804 and Harvard Law School, and served as a State Senator. As a lawyer and politician he had a "long and distinguished career of public service." He was elected a Representative to the General Court and served on the State Executive Council. In addition he was President of the Blackstone National Bank for nearly twenty years. He was involved in the establishment of the State Lunatic Hospital in Worcester. His home, "Elmshade", was the scene of many political gatherings as five generations of his family lived there and were involved in legal and political careers. The Taft Family Reunion of 1874 was held on the grounds. "He was a gentleman of polished manners, excellent culture and high standing in his profession... He was a man of genial humor, rare hospitality, enlightened public spirit, and unbended integrity."

Lt. Adolphus Spring, father of Hannah Spring, was born 13 Mar 1772 in Uxbridge, MA (VR 1.145), son of John and Hannah (Crosby) Spring, and died 20 Oct 1847 in Uxbridge, MA. He married (1) Lydia Taft 20 Nov 1794 in Mendon, MA (VR 398). Lydia Taft was born 1 Dec 1772 in Mendon, MA, daughter of Maj. Daniel and Mary (Sibley) Taft, and died 15 Mar 1838 in Uxbridge, MA (VR 1.402). They had the following children: Mary, Hannah, John, Daniel, Lydia, George, Silas, Lewis, Margaret, Marcus, and Luther Spring. Lt. Adolphus Spring married (2) Harriet Taft 4 Aug 1839 in Uxbridge, MA (VR 1.309). Harriet Taft was born 25 Jul 1795 in Uxbridge, MA (VR 154), daughter of Frederic and Abigail (Wood) Taft, and died 3 Sep 1852 in Uxbridge, MA (MAVR 68.157). Lt. Adolphus, Lydia, and Harriet Spring were all buried in Prospect Hill Cemetery, Uxbridge, MA (FAG). Harriet (Taft) Spring married (2) Dr. Daniel Thurber 25 Oct 1824 in Uxbridge, MA (VR 316), as his second wife. Dr. Daniel Thurber was buried in Bicknell Cemetery, Mendon, MA and was remembered as "one of the popular and most trusted and beloved physicians of the town in his days."

Lydia Taft was the daughter of Maj. Daniel (Daniel, Daniel, Robert) Taft.

Harriet Taft was the daughter of Frederic (Samuel, Israel, Robert, Robert) Taft.

Sources: MSS 1910, VRs, FAG # 42615846, en.wikipedia

In Memoriam

James Carlisle Taft

James Carlisle "Jimmy" "Snake" Taft, Sr. was born 22 Feb 1934 in Charlotte, NC, son of Wellington Marsten and Daisy (Tillman) Taft, and died 28 May 2018 in Mecklenburg Co., NC. He was buried in Sharon Memorial Park, Charlotte, NC.

Jim lost his father at a very young age during the depression and learned to fend for himself. He served in the Korean conflict in the US Army as a Ranger. He then married the love of his life, Joann Simril, while both worked at Iveys department store in Charlotte. He attended Belmont Abby College in Belmont, NC, working on a sociology degree. His senior exit project was to create an athletic program from scratch for the newly opened Charlotte Christian School.

After graduation, Jim worked for the Salvation Army Red Shield Boys Club in Charlotte. This in turn led to his work with underprivileged children in Charlotte and Belmont, NC. As executive director he enhanced the athletic programs by creating a new ball field in the more impoverished part of town, but also took the Boys Club's Pony League baseball team to Shawnee OK where they won the World Series of the Colt division in 1963. The Boys Club of America transferred him to other clubs to develop clubs in struggling neighborhoods. The first was in Wallingford CT... Men from that era "still recall fondly Jim's positive effect on the working class neighborhoods he worked in. This led him to the Cramer Hill Boys Club in Camden NJ. In 1967 Jim was nominated and honored as an Outstanding Young Man of America... Similar deeds were to follow for the next 50 years of his life. At his dedication ceremony he was personally introduced to Sen. Richard Nixon. A number of years later, while working for Pop Warner Football, Jim met then President Nixon at a sports banquet honoring national youth athletes and their mentors. To his surprise, the President remembered him, even calling him erroneously Mr. Tate! To Jim that wasn't a problem, it was close enough!"

In the early 1970s Jim became the "National Field Director for Pop Warner Little Scholars Youth Football in Philadelphia PA. The largest youth football league at the time, it fit right in with Jim's philosophy of education first, then athletics. In this capacity Jim traveled the country arbitrating rule disputes and being the official spokesperson of the league. If there was a microphone on the field, Jim was behind it, exhorting all within earshot to be their best both on and off the field. During his Pop Warner years, the governor of KY recognized Jim for his service within her state by making him an Honorary Kentucky Colonel."

Jim retired in the mid-1990s, "but this in no way slowed down his involvement in his community and sports endeavors. While living in Edgewater Park, NJ he found himself on numerous committees. Most important for him was the Department of Recreation. In this capacity he had a positive impact on activities. Chief amongst these was his personal (and physical) involvement with the creation of a jogging trail in a new underdeveloped park which became the foundation for the further development of that park. To this day, the trail bears his name as a fitting tribute to someone who decided not to sleep off his retirement years. Just when he began to relax a bit and enjoy his time off, friends and acquaintances from his past enlisted his help in the creation of a whole new youth football program called AYF, American Youth Football. Jim set the guiding principles for the new organization. The ultimate recognition of his work with youth athletics was his nomination and acceptance into the Youth Football Hall of Fame in Canton Ohio." In addition he earned his theology degree through Liberty University and taught Sunday school at both Mouzon Methodist and Matthews United Methodist Churches.

James Carlisle Taft is survived by his wife, Joann (Simril) Taft; son, James Carlisle Taft, Jr. (Leslie) of Charlotte and daughter, Melanie Carol Lamb (Tim) of Charlotte; grandchildren, Matthew Lamb (Christian) and Katie Just (Matthew); great-grandchilden, Aliegha Lamb and Lucas Just; and many nieces and nephews.

James Carlisle Taft was the son of Wellington Marston (Wellington Marston, Charles W., Arnold F., Laban, Mijamin Mowry, Nathan, Mijamin, Benjamin, Robert) Taft.

Source: FAG # 190157982

Robert Taft Chandler's Taft Ancestry

1.Frederick Gray Chandler, father of Robert Taft Chandler, was born 20 Jul 1869 in Andover, Essex, MA, son of John Henry and Eunice R. (Gray) Chandler (MAVR 214.166), and died after 1940. He married Mary Elizabeth Taft 29 Jul 1893 in Worcester, MA (MAVR 435.556). Mary Elizabeth Taft was born 4 Aug 1866 in Worcester, MA (MAVR 188.275), daughter of Henry Gleason and Catherine "Kate" (Cross) Taft, and died in Oct 1951 in Chatham, MA. Frederick Gray Chandler went to Philips Academy, Andover class of 1887. He was an insurance agent in Springfield, MA according to their marriage license. In 1930 they were lodgers at 46 University Ave., Brookline and in 1940 he was living at 23 Charlotte St., Worcester, MA in Catherine H. and Susan C. Taft's home, his sisters in law.

2.Henry Gleason Taft was born 24 Oct 1832 in Upton, Worcester, MA, son of Stephen and Eliza Fellows (Gleason) Taft, and died 10 Apr 1900 in Worcester, MA (MAVR 506.538). He married Catherine "Kate" Cross 28 May 1856 in Worcester, MA. (MAVR 101.266) Catherine Cross was born 28 May 1837 in Norfolk, CT, daughter of Benjamin and Susan Cross, and died 6 Jun 1916 in Worcester, MA (MAVR 99.362). They were the parents of Alice Eliza, Helen Cross, Mary Elizabeth, Katherine Hoxie, Anna Gleason, and Susan Clifford Taft. They were buried in the Worcester Rural Cemetery, Worcester, MA and listed on the Stephen Taft (1809) memorial stone with other family members (FAG ID 112064476). Henry Gleason Taft was a grocer as was his father. By 1900 he was listed as a janitor at the Midland St. school and living at 1 Jasper St. with daughters Anna G. and Katherine H., teachers, and Helen C., clerk.

3.Stephen Taft was born 16 Apr 1809 in Upton, MA (VR 55), son of Stephen and Jemima (--) Davis Taft, and died 26 May 1875 in Worcester, MA (MAVR 276.471). He married Eliza Fellows Gleason 13 Nov 1831 in Upton, MA (VR 136). Eliza Fellows Gleason was born in 1809 in Bennington, VT, daughter of John Gleason, and died 4 Jan 1889 in Worcester, MA (MAVR 402.582). They had the following children: Henry Gleason and William Austin Taft. Stephen and Eliza Fellows (Gleason) Taft were buried in the Worcester Rural Cemetery, Worcester, MA.

4.Capt. Stephen Taft was born 22 Feb 1773 in Upton, MA (VR 55), son of Silas and Elizabeth (Sadler) Taft, and died 26 Oct 1846 in Upton, MA (VR 182). He married (1) Jemima (--) Davis, widow, 4 Dec 1791 in Upton, MA (VR 136). Jemima Taft died 28 Nov 1816 in Upton, MA (VR 181). Children of Stephen and Jemima included: Simeon, Nathan, Silas, Maria, Nathan, Elizabeth, Sarah, Stephen, Clarinda, and Davis Taft. He married (2) Betsey Baker 27 Nov 1817 in Upton, MA (VR 76, 182). Betsey Baker died 10 Sep 1852 in Upton, MA. Stephen Taft and Betsey had the following children: Velorous B., Jemima, Harriet E., Jemima, and Malita Ann Taft.

5.Silas Taft was born 5 Nov 1744 in Upton, MA (VR 55), son of Israel and Mercy (Aldrich) Taft, and died at an unknown date. He married Elizabeth Sadler 8 Sep 1772 in Upton, MA (VR 128, 136). Elizabeth Sadler was born 13 Sep 1754 in Upton, MA (VR 48), daughter of Stephen and Elizabeth (Tainter) Taft, and died at an unknown date. They had the following children: Stephen, Silas, Israel, Joel, Bezaleel, Otis, Samuel, Elisha and Elizabeth Taft.

6.Israel Taft (1698-1753) and Mercy Aldrich (1700-c1752) of Mendon, MA.

7.Robert Taft (c1674-1748) and Elizabeth Woodward (c1671-1748) of Mendon and Uxbridge, MA.

8.Robert Taft (c1640-1725) and Sarah Taft (c1640-1725), of Braintree and Mendon, MA, our immigrant ancestors.

Mary Elizabeth Taft as a young wife and later in life

In Memoriam

Millens Walter "Mel" Taft

Millens Walter "Mel" Taft was born 9 May 1922 in Worcester, Worcester, MA, son of Millens Walter and Gladys Pfaffmann (Martin) Taft, and died 6 Mar 2017 in Springfield, Hampden, MA. He was buried in St. Mark's Memorial Garden, East Longmeadow, MA. Mel married about 1947 Charlotte Tomlinson, who predeceased him on 1 Jun 2012 in Springfield, MA.

Mel Taft graduated from Choate Academy in 1941, but his college career at Amherst College was interrupted after his sophomore year when he served in WWII in the US Army Air Force, 8th Air Force, from 1942-1945. He flew in the B-24 Liberator bomber on 35 missions over Europe, receiving the Air Medal with four oak leaf clusters as well as the Purple Heart.

Mel then graduated from Amherst in 1947 and went to Harvard Business School, class of 1949. Mel Taft's career was in the toy business as senior vice president at Milton Bradley of Springfield where he was in charge of research and development, served on the Board of Directors, and "was one of the key officers responsible for Milton Bradley's explosive growth from a small US Company of less than $5 million to the largest and most successful international games company in the world with over $300 million in revenue when he retired in1984. "

Mel Taft wrote his 50th reunion classmates at Amherst: "In May, I reached the happy old age of 72!! I tried to take early retirement from Milton Bradley after 35 years when we had to sell out to Hasbro, quickly found out that it was a mistake, and then set up my own business with my middle son Richard. It turned out to be a great move and now after 10 years, I am as happy as a clam and with no intention of retiring so long as I am having fun --or my son decides to kick me out!! Our business is primarily one of developing or finding new toy and game ideas that we then license to companies around the world. This allows Charlotte and me to travel extensively all over the world and we love it."

Mel Taft "was very involved with community service. He was President and Director of the Springfield Sales & Marketing Executives Club, President & Director of Junior Achievement of Western MA, a faculty member at American International College's Graduate School of Business, a member of the Springfield Chapter of the American Red Cross, and a Director of Springfield Epilepsy Association. Across all his activities, Mel was known far and wide for his fantastic sense of humor and his contagious boisterous laugh, and most of all for his love of family and friends, and his enthusiasm, honesty, and respect with those who had the pleasure to know and work with him. He loved photography, travel, reading, family Christmas celebrations, and many family trips. A world traveler for over 40 years, Mel and his wife Charlotte traveled to all 50 states and every continent except Antarctica."

Mel Taft is survived by his beloved four children: Ted Taft & wife Johanne, Rick Taft & wife Helen Barnstable, David Taft & wife Terry, and Cindy Taft; also his 11 grandchildren: Lauren, Adam & wife Raya, Catherine, Caroline, Will, Kris, Sarah & Haley Taft, & Michael, David & Ashley Tromblay, and also by his sister Helen Taft Staser. He was predeceased by Charlotte Tomlinson Taft, his devoted wife of 65 years, and by his sister Marion Taft Taylor.

Millens Walter "Mel" Taft was the son of Millens Walter (Walter A., Millens Aratus, Millens, Ebenezer, Ebenezer, Robert, Robert, Robert) Taft.

Sources: FAG # 177106524, Census CT 1930, 1940, Amherst College Alumni Journal 2017 p 108, Ludlow Funeral Home Obituary

So that's who Nicholas Taft is!

As I was researching my husband's ancestry on his NH-RI Brown family, I found myself faced with Elder Daniel Preston and Abigail Jackson. Abigail Jackson's parents were Dea. John and Margaret (Taft) Jackson. Lo and behold! This Margaret Jackson was the daughter of Nicholas and Margaret (Milner) Taft. Now I see where the Nicholas Taft as the purported father of our Robert Taft appears.

Dea. John Jackson was baptized 6 Jun 1602 in London, Middlesexshire, ENG, son of Christopher and Susan (Johnson) Jackson, and died 30 Jan 1674/1675 in Newton, Middlesex, MA (VR 1.468). He married Margaret Taft 21 Feb 1639/1640 at St. Dunstan's, Stepney, Middlesexshire, ENG. Margaret Taft was baptized 28 Mar 1615/1616 at St. Dunstan's, Stepney, ENG, daughter of Nicholas and Margaret (Milner) Taft, and died 25 Aug 1684 in Newton, MA (VR 1.468). They were buried in the East Parish Burying Ground, Newton, MA where a monument to the first settlers is located. They had the following children: John, Theodosia, Caleb, Hannah, Anna, Abigail, Margaret, Edward, Mary, Abraham, Deliverance, Joshua, Isabella, Sarah and Grace Jackson.

Nicholas Taft was born about 1584 in probably Limehouse, London, Middlesexshire, ENG, son of Robert and Margaret Taft, and died in 1624 in Stepney, Whitechapel, London, ENG. He married (1) a woman whose name is unknown at present. He married (2) Margaret Milner 1 Jan 1608 at St. Dunstan's, Stepney, ENG. Margaret Milner was baptized 13 Oct 1587 in Radcliffe, Lancashire, ENG, daughter of George and Margaret (Porter) Milner, and died 18 Mar 1627 in Stepney, ENG.

According to some sources Nicholas Taft had the following children with his first wife:

1. Katherine Taft was born about 1602; no more information.
2. Abigail Taft was born about 1603; no more information.
3. Frances Taft who was baptized 6 Feb 1604 in Stepney, ENG and married, as his first wife, Edward Jackson, brother of Dea. John Jackson, 2 Dec 1629 in London, ENG. She died 5 Oct 1648 in Newton, MA (VR 1.468).

Nicholas and Margaret (Milner) Jackson had the following children baptized at St. Dunstan's, Stepney, ENG:

1. Richard Taft was born about 1614 in London, ENG and died before 1700 in County Louth, IRE. He married Margaret Faun 3 Jun 1646 in St. Dionisius Bachchurch, London, ENG . Margaret Faun was born about 1620 in ENG, daughter of Richard and Margaret (Holme) Faun, and died in 1680. They had the following children: Robert, Thomas, Joseph, and Daniel Taft. [NOTE: this son, Robert Taft, has also been named as our Robert Taft].
2. Margaret Taft see above.
3. Elizabeth Taft was baptized 5 May 1620 in Stepney, ENG and died 9 May 1627 in Stepney, ENG.
4. Nicholas Taft was baptized 17 Nov 1623 in Stephen, ENG and died 31 Aug 1624 in Stepney, ENG.
5. Thomas Taft was baptized 12 Oct 1625 in Stepney, ENG and died 1 Dec 1625 in Stepney, ENG.

Several sources over the years have stated that our Robert Taft was the son of Nicholas and Margaret (Milner) Taft. The approximate birth date of our Robert Taft is around 1640 which would make him too old to be a son of Nicholas Taft.

Nicholas Taft had a son Richard Taft who was born about 1614 and married Margaret Faun in 1646. Whether Richard and Margaret (Faun) Taft actually had children named Robert, Thomas, Joseph and Daniel is uncertain at the moment, although very convenient for those who present our Robert Taft as conclusively the son of Richard Taft.

When the Taft Family Association, through Neil Todd, processed a DNA test, the interest at the time was to determine if there was a close connection between Robert Taft and Matthew Taft. The results of that test showed conclusively that there was not a close connection. Another test would need to be done with descendants of Nicholas Taft to see what, if any, direct relationship might exist between them. As far as we know, this has not been done.

At this point, researchers should be cautioned before accepting any lineage that attributes either Nicholas and Margaret (Milner) Taft or Richard and Margaret (Faun) Taft as parents of our Robert Taft. We would encourage further research into this area.

Sources include: VRs, geni.com, History of Newton, FindaGrave

In Memoriam

Russell Parker and Bettycille (Hall) Taft

Russell Parker "Parker" Taft was born 8 Apr 1926 in San Francisco, CA, son of Russell Lewis and Carol E. (Parker) Taft, and died 21 Jan 2018 in Napa, CA. He was buried in Tulocay Cemetery, Napa, CA. Bettycille Hall was born 31 May 1928 in Vallejo, CA, daughter of Austin Smith and Mabel (Newton) Hall, and died 8 Mar 2017 in Napa, CA.

Parker Taft graduated from Vallejo High School in 1944, Vallejo Jr. College in 1948, UCal Berkeley in 1950, and U.C. Hasting College of Law in 1953. After graduation Parker joined his father in the law firm of Taft, Wright and Hopkins. In 1961 he and his brother, Franklin R. Taft, opened their own law firm where he continued to practice until he retired at the age of 86.

Parker served in WWII in the Army Air Force, 33d Inf. Div., where he was stationed in the Philippines and then in Japan as part of the Occupational Force.

"Parker was an avid and expert skier starting at 16 years of age, when he was in the Boy Scouts of America and skied until he was over 85 years old. He also continued his involvement with Boy Scouts, particularly Troop 12 for many years after he attained Life Scout, serving on the troop board, and as scoutmaster. As a very active community member he served on many boards and committees including as a 32nd degree Mason, Naval Lodge #87 in Vallejo, a founder and Secretary of the Springbrook Memorial Foundation, and Director of Solano County Bar Association, Legal Aid for many years. Parker was a member of Vallejo Elk's Club, (BPOE), the American Bar Association as was his father, Russell L. and his grandfather Frank W. Taft. He was a founding partner and board member of Grand Cru Vineyards, in Glen Ellen, and incorporated the Sonoma County Vintners Association. He was active in the Vallejo 20-30 Club, Past Lt. Gov. of Kiwanis, Division 8, Founder and Charter member of Vallejo Suburban Kiwanis Club. He received Kiwanis' Hixson Fellowship Award in 1997. At one time or another he was on the Board of Directors of: Sem Yeta council of Campfire, American Red Cross, Salvation Army, Crime Stoppers, Mare Island Historical Foundation, Silverado Concourse d'Elegance, Vallejo Yacht club, Vallejo Naval & Historical Museum, and Sponsor of Lilac Branch of Oakland Children's Hospital, and Operation Lifesafer.

He often shared his knowledge of the law with many young lawyers, and was proud to help them start their new careers, and build longstanding friendships. His family and friends enjoyed his humor, intellect, friendly countenance, curiosity, generosity, honor and sense of justice."

Bettycille Hall had her first horse at the age of four and sold her last horse in 1946. At that time she pursued her airplane pilot's license until she moved to San Francisco, CA to work for the Grant Brothers in their Silver Dept., later moving to Macy's. After marrying Parker in 1951 she became a bookkeeper for Brenner's Furniture in Vallejo. Betty was as active a community member as her husband serving in the Napa Ski Club, American Airwomen, PTA at Highland School, Campfire, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Lilac Branch Children's Hospital and Medical Center, Vallejo Kiwanis Club and Vallejo Suburban Kiwanis. In her spare time she was an active gardener who loved to make the world around her more beautiful.

Parker and Betty Taft are survived by his brother Franklin R. (Gloria) Taft; cousin Virginia Taft Meeks; and their three children: Robert R. (Gale) Taft of Napa, Russell N. (Val) Taft of Orinda, Leslie Jean Diederich of Colfax, and four grandchildren, Drew and Forrest Diederich and James Parker and Camryn Riley Taft.

Russell Parker was the son of Russell Lewis (Frank Winifred, Hiram Fayette, Elijah, Aaron, Aaron, Eleazer, Thomas, Robert) Taft.

Sources: TimesHeraldOnline Feb. 4 to Apr 8, 2018, FAG # 188375395, www.dailyrepublic.com, TimesHeraldOnline 15 Mar 2017

Taft Family Association Officers

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